



Trident Antifascism

Bash Satanic Fash



Fascism in the Satanic Temple: Part 1.: Free Speech

Preface

Previously, we had four separate articles up reporting on fascism and abuse within the Satanic Temple before our WordPress got taken down. We're going to be reuploading them here, covering TST's troubling alt-right associations and politics.

TST is a religious and political activist group that puts forth the facade of a progressive organization that does activism for human and civil rights and makes a safe space for LGBTQA+ individuals and

others who are in vulnerable and oppressed communities. TST also does work and hosts events that counter religious oppression and its encroachment into the State and politics. It should be noted that TST has done good and legitimate work on these fronts in the past, and credit should be given where it is due. But the unfortunate reality is that, from the top-down, TST is a crypto-fascist organization with some members being outright neo-nazis. Of course, it must be mentioned that TST has some members who aren't neo-nazis or neo-fascists and some are even antifascist; that said, we encourage those who are antifascists within TST to take a hard look at the reality of the organization they're involved with and consider exiting the group.

It should be clear at the outset here that Trident Antifa *are not* disgruntled ex-members who suddenly have a vendetta against the organization. We're simply reporting on fascism within organizations like the Satanic Temple.

It's important to view these [#AltRightTST](#) articles with nuance and to take in the whole breadth of TST's leanings and flirtations with fascism, what we call "the fascist creep" (the creeping of fascism into other non-fascist cultures and subcultures). Therefore, it's important to pay attention to the more restrained, held back, less noticeable, and implicit politics that lend to fascism within TST, such as its views on free speech and hate speech, as well as looking at, specifically, TST co-founder Doug Misicko's (AKA Lucien Greaves/Doug Mesner) views on antifa and the modern antifascist movement (he's staunchly against antifa, taking a pro-fascist anti-antifa stance). With that said, in this series, we'll be covering such things as free speech; Doug's views on activism, protest, and violence; to TST's outright and explicit associations with alt-right figures and neo-fascists. Looking at all of this in tandem will paint a clear picture that shows Doug's and TST's crypto- and pro-fascism.

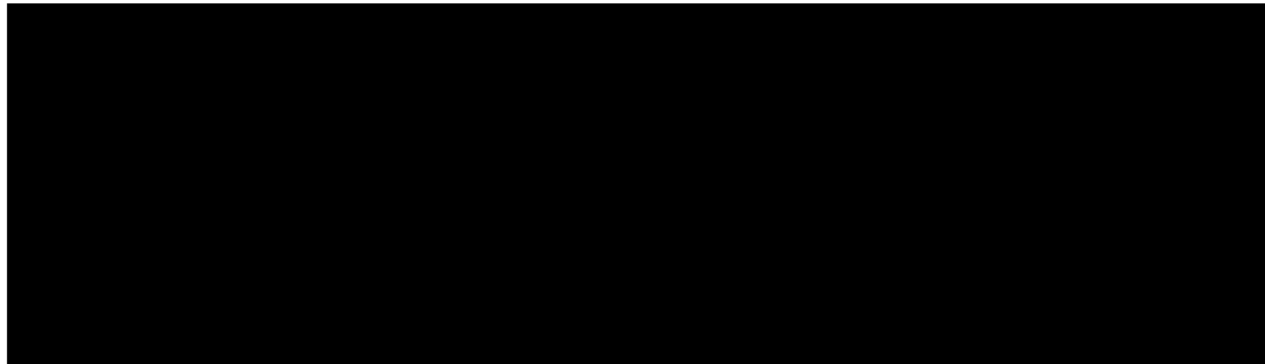
Free Speech

It's not hard to find what Doug's views are on free and hate speech online. For example, here's a video where Doug claims that punching nazis legitimizes them and gives them exactly what they want. This, of course, is a prominent (and tired) argument that liberals are quick to give in rebuking antifascist protesters and it's often heard along with dishonest claims that antifascists are just as violent as nazis and that they actually *are* nazis, which is also another claim that Doug has made in the past.



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Doug goes on to say that if Milo has posed a legitimate danger to people in inciting violence, defamation, or in invading their privacy that these people should consult civil courts and legal representation. But this overlooks the fact that the legal process can, in turn, further victimize trans people and other vulnerable or minority groups; not to mention that legal institutions and the State, in general, are systems that uphold white supremacy and patriarchy. In the same breath, Doug claims that antifascists suffer from cognitive dissonance and that *they*, the antifascists, are in fact the ones who are acting like fascists, and that hate speech itself should be protected under the first amendment.

Doug also says that antifascist protestors are the ones responsible for creating the wave of celebrity that Yiannopoulos enjoyed, who are “ignorant little assholes” who cause violence for the sake of violence and who target innocent and random people in the streets. This is entirely dishonest, as antifascists organize to deplatform specific fascists who target real, tangible, flesh-and-blood people who aren’t guilty of anything save for being a specific skin color, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Doug’s claim of violence also overlooks the other work that antifascists do which consists of non-violent actions, such as researching for countless hours fascists and fascist organizations, putting together resources and information that make their communities aware of fascists in their area, doing community actions such as food drives and solidarity events, and doxxing campaigns that out violent fascists and rallying to get them fired. It must be reiterated that violently opposing fascists in the streets isn’t the only action that antifascists undertake, while they fully acknowledge that fascism must be physically opposed with violence if need be.

On the claim that opposing fascists gives them the attention they want, it would seem that this has been falsified, as prominent fascists and alt-right figures have seen a decline in organizing and have had their funding stripped in some cases, such as, you guessed it, Milo Yiannopoulos.

But wait until you read Doug's hot take on punching nazis and fascism in the US today. He's entirely against punching them and he dishonestly asserts that antifascists go out of their way to engage in brawls and engage in indiscriminate violence. He thinks that the Nazi Party isn't going to gain prominence and he overlooks the resurgent rise of fascism here in the US. At all times, he downplays the role and violence that fascism is having in recent events. In fact, the interview in which he says all this was published June 28th, 2017, just two months prior to the deadly Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville in which white supremacists rallied chanting "Jews will not replace us" and which culminated with James Alex Fields Jr. [running his car into a crowd of people](#). (As an aside, we recommend following Emily Gorcenski [[@EmilyGorcenski](#)] and Molly [[@socialistdogmom](#)] on Twitter specifically for information on the groups and people who were active in Charlottesville for Unite the Right. Additionally, check out Emily's site [First Vigil](#) which tracks court cases involving fascists, and Molly's [Patreon](#).)

[Zeige eine Slideshow]

According to Breitbart, you reached out to clarify that TST had nothing to do with the counter-Milo protests in California, citing your support of free speech. How do you reconcile having "freedom to offend" with the danger Milo causes to individuals by targeting specific races or undocumented students at his speeches?

I'm not sure what danger he's caused to anybody. I've never read his material. I've never listened to him speak. Even still, after having defended his right to speak, I still don't give a shit about what he's saying. I defend the principle of free speech, and when you defend a principle, you don't only defend it selectively. If you can't support it when it incidentally doesn't benefit you, you're not supporting it at all. You can't claim that you believe in free speech, only insofar as you agree with what's being said. If Milo has posed a legitimate danger to individuals through inciting violence in a very direct and tangible way, if he's threatened people, or incited their hatred – this seems like a matter for the civil courts, and the aggrieved parties should consult legal representation. If the "danger" is that he has hurt people's feelings, then I should be quite clear that I am not sympathetic. For my part, I can't wrap my head around the cognitive dissonance that has self-proclaimed defenders of Liberal Democracy calling for limitations on free speech in the name of "anti-fascism." The issue is overwhelming. Of course, it seems, nobody quite wants to admit that they rescuse free speech, so it's quite popular to try and categorize anything one disagrees with as hate speech worthy of censorship. But offensive and even hateful speech is, and should remain, protected under the First Amendment. Threats and incitement are treated differently, and there could be legal claims related to those, if it's that's what Milo's doing.

My impression of Milo is that he rode a wave of celebrity that was largely created by the ignorant little assholes who ran around ignoring laws, harassing property, and causing bystanders to flee the town whenever he was scheduled to speak. When you take a third-rate conediano who's saying offensive things and demand his censorship, you suddenly give him the First Amendment high ground. You turn him into a defender of Civil Liberties. You make him a free speech martyr, and in the internet age his message is certainly no less accessible, you've only given him free publicity.

Incidentally, it appears that Milo's career as a sweetheart of the alt-right is all but entirely finished, and it wasn't destroyed because some screaming mob of mindless fascists "anti-fascists" managed to impose a general censorship of his words, but because he was allowed to speak freely and express things that even his followers couldn't support or defend.

Related, does TST have an official stance on punching Nazis?

Personally, I think it's a bad idea to go out looking to punch anybody. I especially think it's a bad idea to go out looking to punch third-rate shillies who themselves are looking for a protest for a fight. I also think Nazis are a bit too easy a target to place all of our post-election anger upon. I'm not particularly concerned that the Nazi Party is going to gain prominence in the United States any time in the near or projected future. Even our most aggressive elements on the right probably honestly believe themselves to be entirely unrelated to Nazis. The self-identified Nazis I know of are angry, uneducated, aggressive yahoos who run no risk of requesting a national reprieve. I just don't see into Nazis in my daily life or when I'm out socializing. I'm not sure where people are living that they can decide to violently throw out and go punch a Nazi at will. Rather, I think the anti-Nazi rhetoric is simply a safe and ineffective exhibition of discontent. It's something people can rant about and issue threats of violence toward without any real fear of actual confrontation. I think it would be far more poignant and meaningful if people were to confront Evangelical Nationalism and roll against the Theocratic Right. I get sick of hearing people say, "let's call them what they really are: Nazis." No. Why don't you call them what they really are? They are the Theocratic Right. They are Evangelical Nationalists. They are taking over the public offices and overtaking Liberal Democracy. When you call people who have no attachment to Nazi ideology Nazis, they don't know you're talking about them, and it's not clear that you know who you're talking about either.

Alt-Right Lawyer Marc Randazza

The Satanic Temple has recently run into controversy involving Doug's decision to use alt-right lawyer and Twitter troll Marc Randazza to represent the temple in a religious discrimination case pro bono, that is, free of charge. Randazza has, of course, represented neo-nazis in the past such as Andrew Anglin of the Daily Stormer and has represented InfoWars dingbat and [alleged Proud Boy](#) Alex Jones. The decision to recruit Randazza has resulted in some TST members exiting the organization and even some [prominent members documenting abuse](#) that has [went on in TST](#).

Just as Doug did in supporting Yiannopoulos, [in a Vox article](#) Doug said that he didn't research Randazza's politics and further, *that he doesn't care what Randazza's views actually are and that Randazza's views should be of no consequence to him or TST*. At all times when Doug is questioned he blatantly ad-

mits that he has no regard whatsoever about the content of the words that problematic, bigoted alt-righters espouse: Doug seems to be completely fine with the fascists he sympathizes with espousing hate speech such as that which demonizes trans people as having mental disorders, that Jews are subhumans who need to be eradicated, or that African Americans and other people of color should be killed or enslaved based on their skin tone.

In the Vox article, it's said in passing that through Doug's associating with troubling people such as Randazza that TST is too willing to let the voices of its membership, straight and white men, crowd out the wishes of a diverse membership. The claim is on point here but it's lacking information about TST's central administration, the co-founders of TST: Doug Misicko (Lucien Greaves/Doug Mesner) and Cevin Soling (Malcolm Jarry). While Doug acts as a spokesman for TST, [Cevin Soling](#) seems to be the sole person responsible for TST's funding. In reuploading this series, we'll be providing profiles on both Doug and Cevin, but for now, [all we'll add about Cevin](#) is that he denies Israel perpetuates genocide against the children of Palestine and he seems to be an unwavering Zionist nationalist. Both are white, cisgender men who, as we'll show throughout this series, don't actually care about a diverse membership or about its current members who are part of LGBTQA+ and vulnerable communities, and that they both are tied to the alt-right.

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The Satanic Temple is divided over its leader's decision to hire Alex Jones's lawyer

Marc Randazza has also defended the founder of a neo-Nazi site, the Daily Stormer.

By [Noah Shachtel](#) | [@shachtel](#) | [noahshachtel.com](#) | Aug 9, 2019, 3:05pm EDT

Greaves's decision to work with Marc Randazza, a lawyer whose other clients include Infowars' Alex Jones and a number of neo-Nazis and white supremacists, has led to a fracture within TST. The Los Angeles chapter of the group has disaffiliated in protest, calling Randazza a "Twitter troll and an agent of the alt-right," while the co-head of the New York chapter has resigned and left the organization.

The controversy over Greaves's engagement of Randazza has crystallized wider debates within the organization. For Greaves and his allies, TST's primary mission is to defend principles of personal sovereignty like free speech and separation of church and state, often by taking advantage of legal religious liberty exemptions. Greaves has frequently argued that this sovereignty is sacrosanct, even for views he finds repugnant. He has, for example, defended the right of **ultra-conservative firebrand Milo Yiannopoulos** to speak at California Polytechnic University after students purporting to be Satanists led a protest against him.

But for many of the progressive activists drawn to TST for its high-profile commitment to left-wing advocacy work, TST's partnership with Randazza, and willingness to overlook his more troubling clientele, is a worrying sign that the organization is too willing to let the voices of its leadership—many of whom are straight white men—crowd out the wishes of a more diverse membership.

Greaves said that the only lawyer who would take his case pro bono was Randazza, a lawyer whose defense of free speech—no matter how repugnant the message—has led to him to defend a founder of the neo-Nazi website the Daily Stormer. Randazza is also defending far-right conspiracy theorist Alex Jones **against several families** of the victims in the Sandy Hook, Connecticut, shooting, who are suing him for defamation for propagating the idea that the massacre was a hoax.

In a **Medium** post explaining her departure, Story wrote, "Randazza is not just another lawyer and it's disingenuous to pretend that he is... He has appeared on Alex Jones's Infowars **again and again**—not merely to discuss the Sandy Hook case but to express a whole variety of opinions about everything from Starbucks's racial bias training to 'the culture of victimhood' in the United States." Randazza has, she noted, appeared on Infowars **to warn**: "one day in the future, there will be the uber victim: it will be one victim, to rule over all of them. There will be a black lesbian in a wheelchair with an eye patch and every single possible victimization and she will rule.... It's a dystopian fairy tale."

For Story, TST's affiliation with Randazza highlights a wider issue within the organization: its unwillingness to prioritize the wishes of its most vulnerable and marginalized members. TST has, in her view, a diversity problem, skewing toward a generally privileged and largely white demographic.

"It's not a coincidence," Story wrote, "that the people who are leaving TST over this issue right now are predominantly members of the very same vulnerable groups we say we want to attract." Still, members who are people of color, LGBTQ, or from other marginalized groups may feel uncomfortable with their religious organization doing business with someone who has not only defended, but also exhibited collegial behavior toward personalities like Jones.

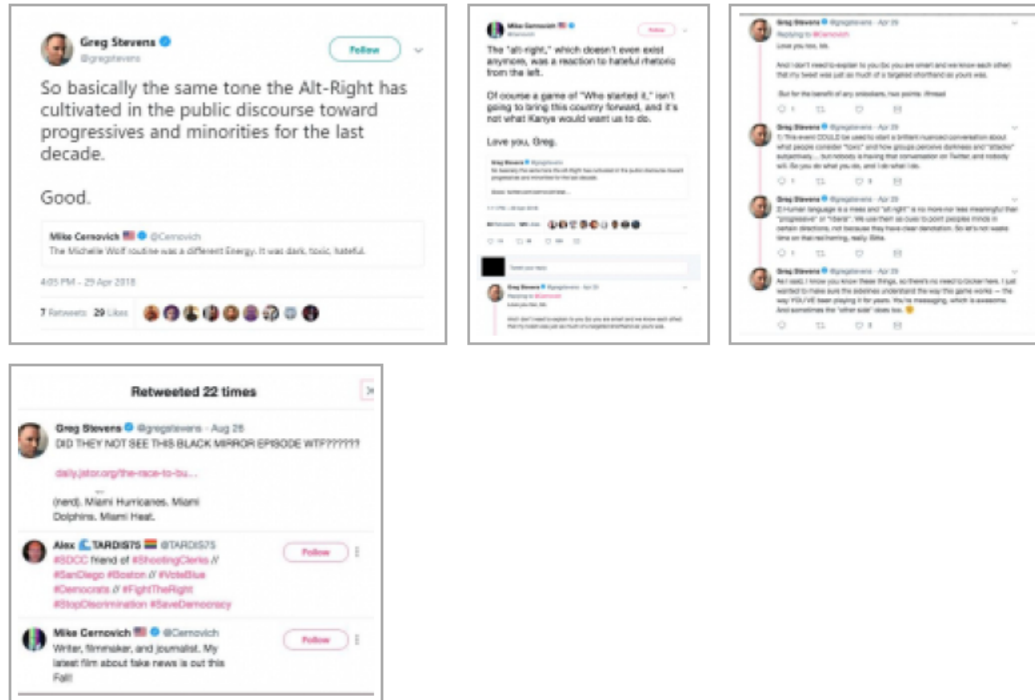
In a **statement** made via Patreon, Greaves doubled down on his decision to work with Randazza. "I didn't take the time to learn his politics, and **what he said about Jews and** he's not representing our views, he's defending our legal rights in court. He is a tool that has been made available to our enemies to their benefit. If we deny ourselves the same tools on the grounds that they've been used by our enemies, how we not merely forfeit our own fight?"

In a subsequent email to Vox, Greaves stressed that he believed that most chapter heads supported his decision to keep working with Randazza. He added, "We are not giving him a courtroom platform to pontificate about his political views. **We support those views too.** **His support for us is** Refusing his services would do nothing to hurt the alt right, it would merely hurt it."

Alt-Right Associations

As it turns out, there are some TST national council members who have associations with alt-right figures. One such council member is Greg Stevens. He's friends on Twitter with Mike Cernovich, who's a [male supremacist](#), a [violent rapist](#), and [rape apologist](#). Cernovich also has ties to violent far-right street gang the Proud Boys. [He's supported them financially](#), raising up to \$87,000 for Kyle "Based Stickman" Chapman and donating \$5,000 for transportation to one of the Proud Boys' violent "Free Speech" rallies. The Proud Boys claim to not be affiliated with nazis but they regularly have nazis [in their ranks](#).

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Stevens' also appears to be friends with Yiannopoulos.

GREG STEVENS

I'm anti-feminist, if by "feminist" you mean...

Politics | October 24th, 2014



My good friend and colleague Milo Yiannopoulos said in an interview about his views on *GameGate*: "I'm anti-feminist, if by 'feminist' you mean slandering misandrists." He is not alone in his perception of feminism. Many people see

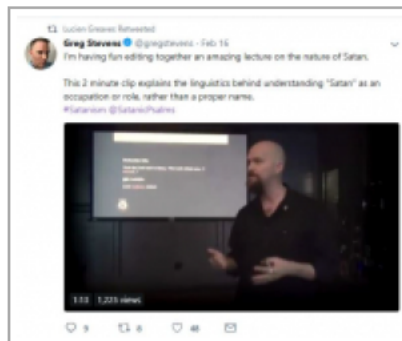
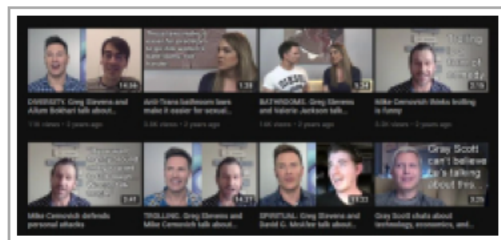
National Council Member Greg Stevens

Not "some guy. Milo's been his alternate representative". Greg has been a point of contact for many chapters within TST where his guidance and instruction have proved integral and beneficial to the organization. He will be performing in World Satanism for your entertainment.



Additionally, Stevens has interviewed Mike Cervovich numerous times on his YouTube channel where Cervovich is given a platform to defend his bigoted behavior. And despite all of this, it appears that Doug is completely fine with his national council members freely associating with and giving a platform to violent and bigoted alt-right people.

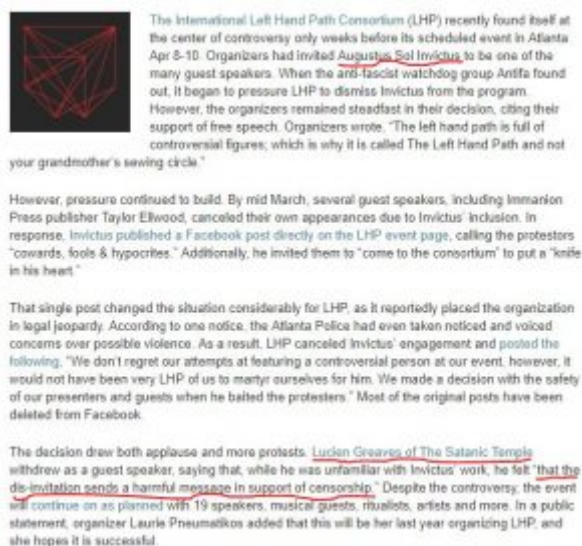
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What is more, and what goes a long way in showing Doug's and TST's crypto-fascism, Doug has rallied for fascists such as Augustus Sol Invictus having a platform on which they can spread hateful rhetoric about white ethnostates, purging deplorables and degenerates, and demonizing marginalized people. In-
victus is a fascist alt-right figure, white supremacist "identitarian" who has called for a violent second

civil war to preserve “Western civilization”. He’s also a Holocaust denier and has advocated for eugenics, even writing about it in a paper he wrote for law school that he titled “Future or Ruin”, which is the same name of a speech that Hitler gave in 1921.

In 2016, organizers of the International Left Hand Path Consortium had invited Invictus to be a guest speaker, but pressure from antifascists caused them to cancel Invictus’ appearance. As it turns out, Doug was also invited to be a guest speaker; however, he was dismayed at the decision to deplatform Invictus and so he had a temper tantrum where he withdrew himself as a speaker. Doug stated that “the dis-invitation sends a harmful message in support of censorship.” Doug also said, just as in his supporting of Yiannopoulos and Randazza, that he was unfamiliar with Invictus. This is a piss-poor attempt on Doug’s part at plausible deniability. It seems that whenever Doug expresses his support for some bigoted alt-righter, he can leave an out for himself by claiming ignorance of the views of those that he supports. This is a crypto-fascist tactic, and we’ll come to see more of this behavior throughout this series.



Through Doug’s troubling personal politics and in his managing TST and acting as a spokesperson, it’s clear that he and TST are just A-Okay with absolute free speech, including hate speech that demonizes and discriminates based groundlessly on race, gender, sexuality, etc. Doug has demonstrated himself to be entirely in bed with the alt-right and he wholeheartedly supports, tolerates, and sympathizes with fascists like Augustus Sol Invictus, and it’s clear what his stance is regarding protest and antifascism, that is, that he’s entirely against antifascism. At all times, Doug has demonstrated himself to be a useful idiot for far- and alt-right figures to gain entry into his organization, and he exposes those marginalized and vulnerable individuals in TST to the fascist creep. This is entirely reprehensible and deplorable, as TST bills itself a vehicle for progress and social justice.

If you’re looking for alternative, countercultural, or subcultural religion, or a social justice political group, we recommend staying clear of the Satanic Temple, as it’s entirely a crypto-fascist organization. We encourage antifascists to show up, protest, and shut down the public events that TST put on.

We'd like to thank antifascist comrades who have contributed information pertinent to TST and who support our work. TST has issued harassment campaigns in response to those who have exited the organization and to those who share our articles and information showing TST's troubling behavior and crypto-fascism, and we'd like to offer our solidarity; we stand with you against religious oppression and fascist terror.

Follow along with this series on Twitter with [#AltrightTST](#)

📅 January 26, 2019 👤 HaleyvilleARA 📁 Antifascism, Religion 🔖 Alt-Right, Alternative Right, Altright, Antifascism, Anti-Semitism, Antifa, Antifascism, Cevin Soling, Doug Mesner, Doug Misicko, Ethno-Nationalism, Fascism, Lucien Greaves, Malcolm Jarry, Nationalism, Nazism, Neo-Fascism, Neo-Nazism, Religion, The Satanic Temple, TST, White Nationalism, White Supremacy

One thought on “Fascism in the Satanic Temple: Part 1.: Free Speech”

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